

## Message Text

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17/13

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 INR-10 INRE-00 NSC-10

NSCE-00 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 AID-20 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8362

CSAF IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

MAC SCOTT AFB ILL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 4505

CSAF FOR XO

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, OCLR, US, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR USAF AIRCRAFT

REF: BERN 4486

1. BECAUSE DR. GULDIMANN DIRECTOR, SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE, WAS ENGAGED IN CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINESE DEL, AIR ATTACHE AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MET NOVEMBER 6 WITH DR. ALBERT MUNCH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR. ALONG LINES PARA 4 REFTTEL, WE OUTLINED US POSITION ON PRINCIPLE OF IMMUNITY OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND SUGGESTED POSSIBLE OCCASIONAL VISITS OF GOS OFFICIALS TO RHEIN-MAIN TO OBSERVE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF MAC AIRCRAFT WHICH OVERFLY SWITZERLAND. WE ALSO INFORMED MUNCH THAT US HAD TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED MAC OVERFLIGHTS PENDING RESOLUTION THIS MATTER.

2. MUNCH SAID THAT SWISS CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR MAC AIRCRAFT TO LAND AND BE INSPECTED STEMMED FROM DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERN ABOUT SWISS NEUTRALITY STATUS, PARTICULARLY IN CANTON OF VALAIS WHERE RUMORS OF INCREASED OVERFLIGHT

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ACTIVITY HAD CIRCULATED IN RECENT WEEKS. MUNCH, WHILE NOT

CHALLENGING PRINCIPLE OF IMMUNITY OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT, NOTED SPECIAL NEUTRAL STATUS OF SWITZERLAND HAD ALSO TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HE NOTED THAT SWITZERLAND RESERVED RIGHT TO INSPECT RED CROSS AIRCRAFT EVEN THOUGH THESE AIRCRAFT ALSO GENERALLY REGARDED AS IMMUNE FROM INSPECTION.

3. MUNCH SAID THAT SOME SORT OF CHECK OF USAF AIRCRAFT WAS NECESSARY. HE SAID GOS WILL CONSIDER IDEA OF VISITS TO RHEIN-MAIN BUT WONDERED IF GERMAN GOVERNMENT CLEARANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED. HE ALSO NOTED BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED SINCE PRESUMABLY SWISS INSPECTOR SHOULD SPEND SEVERAL DAYS AT RHEIN-MAIN IN ORDER INSPECT AIRCRAFT WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. IN ANY EVENT, MUNCH SAID AIR OFFICE WOULD WANT TO EXAMINE SITUATION WITH POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. BECAUSE OF CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS, MUNCH SAID THAT INTERAGENCY MEETING COULD NOT BE HELD BEFORE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12 AND AS SOON AS GOS HAD RECONSIDERED IT POSITION AIR OFFICE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY.

4. WE ASKED MUNCH IF HE COULD ASSURE THAT OVERFLYING MAC AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE ASKED LAND AND UNDERGO INSPECTION IN SWITZERLAND PENDING RESOLUTION WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12. MUNCH SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE THAT ASSURANCE, AND THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT MAC AIRCRAFT CONTINUE TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE SWITZERLAND.

5. WE NOTE THAT USAF FOREIGN CLEARANCE GUIDE, CHAPTER ON SWITZERLAND, SECTION 1, PARA E STATES "THE SWISS HAVE RESERVED RIGHT TO ORDER AIRCRAFT TO LAND FOR INSPECTION."

6. NEW SWISS DEFENSE AND AIR ATTACHE LT. COL. KUHNI WILL BE ARRIVING WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 8, 1973 AND ASSUME HE WILL HAVE OFFICIAL CALLS SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THIS MATTER SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION BY HIGH LEVEL OFFICER TO INDICATE US AIR FORCE POLICY AND OUR INTEREST IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM.  
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## Message Attributes

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